

# Sumatra:

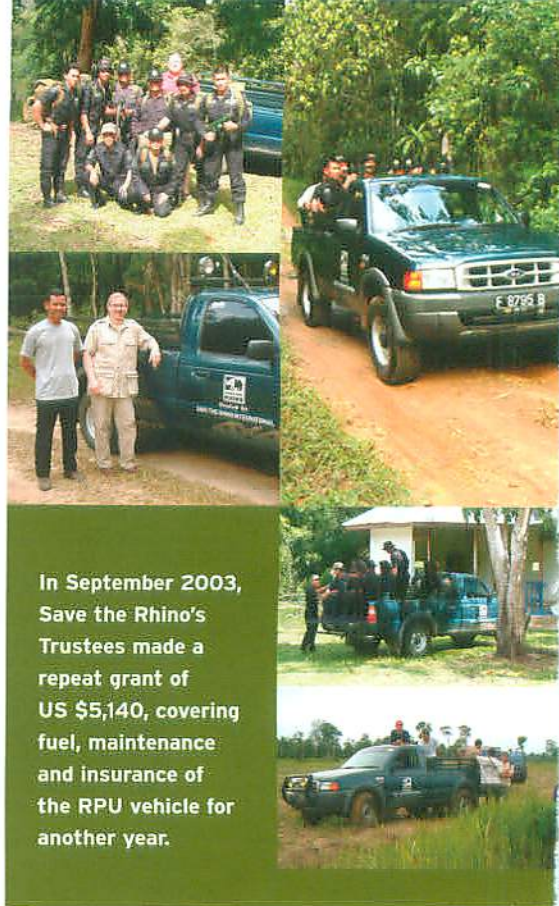
## Disappearing forests in Sumatra

**Dr Thomas J Foose,**  
Program Director  
International Rhino Foundation

The Rhino Protection Unit (RPU) Program for Sumatran Rhino in Way Kambas National Park in Indonesia continues to operate very successfully. During the last year, no rhinos (or tigers which the RPUs also protect) have been lost to poachers.

The contribution of a new 4WD vehicle by Save the Rhino has greatly facilitated the work of these anti-poaching teams.

However, as political flux continues in Indonesia, loss of habitat has become a very serious threat to the rhino in Way Kambas and other protected areas, all of which are under assault by encroachment and exploitation. Way Kambas has lost about 10% (120 sq km) of its total area (1,200 sq km) to the encroachers so far. Unless the governmental authorities, central as well as especially provincial (which now have more control over protected areas) are willing and able to arrest and reverse this encroachment, all of Way Kambas could be lost within a decade or even sooner.



**In September 2003, Save the Rhino's Trustees made a repeat grant of US \$5,140, covering fuel, maintenance and insurance of the RPU vehicle for another year.**

## Time's running out for the Sumatran rhino

Reading Tom Foose's article on the seemingly unstoppable destruction of Way Kambas National Park, one wonders how a species such as the Sumatran rhino can survive in the face of such an onslaught.

**Neil Bridgland**

As well as the RPU in Way Kambas, Save the Rhino is also looking to support other Sumatran rhino projects, such as the research and monitoring programme in Tabin Wildlife Reserve in Sabah (the Malaysian part of Borneo), where an estimated 30 Sumatran rhinos remain in the wild. They are a separate subspecies and are on the verge of extinction. The project is co-ordinated by SOS Rhino, a US charity. The aims of the project are

to protect the rhinos and their habitat, as well as to establish how many rhinos survive, and the population distribution and dynamics, in order to develop an effective conservation plan.

So that you can see the project for yourself, have an amazing wildlife experience and at the same time help us raise funds for Sumatran rhinos, we've devised a special rhino adventure. The Borneo Rhino Challenge takes place from 1-14 May 2004 and is being jointly promoted by SOS Rhino to its supporters in the US.

### **Highlights of the challenge are:**

- 2 days of trekking to the summit of Mt Kinabalu, the highest mountain in South-east Asia (4,095m)
- A visit to Sepilok breeding centre for endangered species where you're guaranteed to see Sumatran rhinos and orangutans
- 2 days of cycling along the northern Sabah coastline

- Tracking rhinos, elephants and other wildlife with rangers in Tabin National Park

### **The costs are:**

- Registration fee: £250. Payable when signing-up to guarantee your place. This covers all of administration costs associated with the challenge
- Fundraising: £2,700. 75% must be paid 10 weeks prior to departure and the remainder up to 4 weeks after returning from the challenge. This can be paid entirely or partly by the participant or from sponsorship - we will provide full support. Half of this covers the cost of the trip; the other half will be donated to the Sumatran rhino protection programme in Tabin Wildlife Reserve

**Please help us support the Sumatran rhinos of Sabah by taking part in this challenge. They need your help.**

The full itinerary and a registration form can be found at [www.savetherhino.org](http://www.savetherhino.org)

